

AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

This issue:

Communications Coordinator
PAGE 02

From the desk of the President
PAGE 03

FMR India
PAGE 05

Asha Niketan Asansol
PAGE 07

Asha Niketan Bangalore
PAGE 10

Asha Niketan Chennai
PAGE 14

Asha Niketan Kolkata
PAGE 17

Asha Niketan Nandibazar
PAGE 20

Testimonial
PAGE 23

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August was a joyful month of celebration and connection! We commemorated Independence Day with heartfelt tributes, games, and the warmth of our community. Special thanks to our generous donors and partners, whose support empowers us. We welcomed new members, celebrated cherished traditions like Raksha Bandhan, and embraced the spirit of unity. While we mourned the loss of beloved core members, our outreach programs and collaborative efforts continue to enrich lives. Thank you for being part of our journey!

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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In our community, we celebrate the unique qualities and differences that enrich our collective identity. By fostering unity and harmony, we respect each other's history and heritage, essential for an inclusive environment. Although our paths may vary, we are united by shared values and aspirations. Building relationships requires time and effort, especially when overcoming historical divisions. Through open communication and empathy, we can navigate these challenges together, forging a path toward reconciliation and unity.

”

Dr Premanand M E

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
FMR INDIA



From the desk of the President, FMR INDIA

BY DR PREMANAND M E

FMR Communities all over India

In the heart of our community, we are continually invited to recognize and appreciate each other's unique qualities and differences. We strive to foster a spirit of unity and harmony, embracing the diverse backgrounds and experiences that shape our collective identity. Respecting one another's history and heritage is fundamental to building a strong and inclusive community.

While our paths may differ, we are united by our shared values and aspirations. We acknowledge that building relationships takes time and effort, particularly when faced with historical divisions or misunderstandings. Through open communication and empathy, we can overcome these challenges.

Let us, together, forge a path towards reconciliation and unity.

Warm regards



Dr Premanand M E
National President
FMR India.



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August was an eventful month filled with celebrations and important meetings. It was a time to come together, embrace responsibility, and focus on empowerment and development. Visits from esteemed foundations and organizations made a significant impact, offering valuable opportunities for our communities to learn and grow through future collaborations.

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Bharathi Gopalakrishnan

NATIONAL LEADER,
FMR INDIA





Ms. Nagarathna Subramanya's Visit to Asha Niketan Kolkata

Ms. Nagarathna Subramanya from the Azim Premji Foundation visited Asha Niketan Kolkata to observe its therapeutic work with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the visit, she interacted with core members, staff, board members, and parents. Through conversations with parents, she gained insights into how Asha Niketan Kolkata is supporting families, emphasizing the dedication and hard work of caregivers in driving the community's initiatives.

Mr. Ravi Ganeshan's Visit to Asha Niketan Bangalore for Vocational Program Development

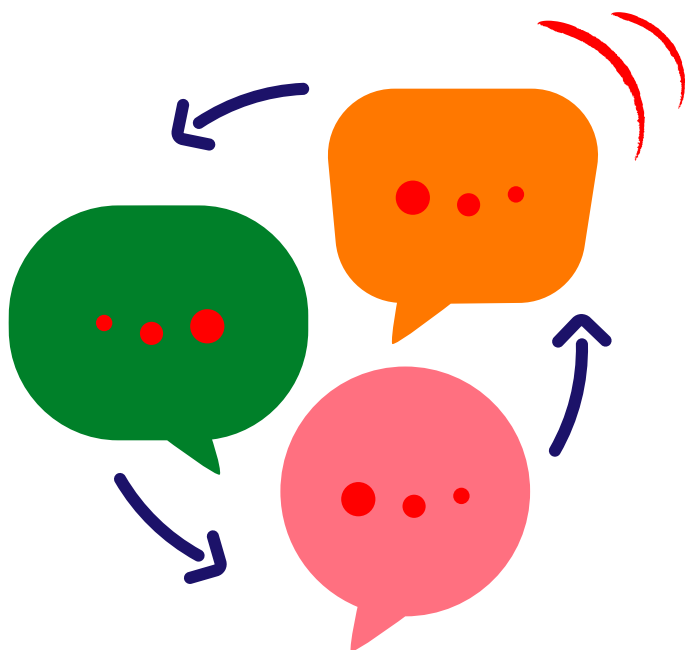
On August 8, 2024, Mr. Ravi Ganeshan, Head of the Disability Program at Fourth Wave Foundation, visited Asha Niketan Bangalore to explore potential collaboration. His focus was on enhancing vocational training for individuals with intellectual disabilities. During the visit, he engaged with community leaders, staff, and caregivers to understand Asha Niketan's initiatives and the needs of its core members. His interest in collaboration marks a positive step toward developing comprehensive vocational training programs aimed at equipping individuals with essential skills for self-reliance and employment.

Mr. Yash Jain's Visit to Asha Niketan Bangalore's Vocational Training Programs

Mr. Yash Jain from BMC IT visited Asha Niketan Bangalore, providing an opportunity to showcase our disability care initiatives. He was introduced to various programs, including vocational training for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Mr. Jain was particularly impressed by the handicrafts made by core members, which highlighted their creativity and skills. This visit underscored the self-reliance and talent of our community while demonstrating the success of our vocational training in empowering individuals to create high-quality, marketable products.

Governing Body meeting and Annual General Meeting

The Governing Body Meeting and Annual General Meeting took place on August 10th and 11th. Key discussions covered Salary policy revisions, fundraising and communications presentations, and the approval of financial statements. Asha Niketan Bangalore, our welcoming host community, graciously received all attendees, and FMR extends its gratitude to all board members for their participation.



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This month, we joyfully celebrated 78 years of freedom with heartfelt tributes to our freedom fighters, thanks to the Youth Hostels Association of India. Raksha Bandhan emphasized love, trust, and our commitment to inclusion. Progress continues in our workshop, daycare, and garden units, with active participation from our Core Members. Our birthday celebration brought joy to all, while Janmashtami filled our community with excitement and devotion. Additionally, our new outreach program fosters social interaction and skill development for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





Celebrating 78 years of freedom with joy and unity! Our heartfelt tribute to the freedom fighters through dance and a special thank you to the Youth Hostels Association of India, Asansol Unit, for making this day even more memorable. At Asha Niketan, we honor the values of inclusion, respect, and unity that our independence represents.



Raksha Bandhan at Asha Niketan is more than a ritual—it's a celebration of love, trust, and humanity. As we honor the bonds that unite us, we reaffirm our mission to create a space where every individual is valued, respected, and protected.



Progress across our workshop, daycare, pre-vocational, and garden units is thriving! With active participation from our Core Members, we continue to foster an environment of growth, inclusion, and meaningful engagement.

We celebrated all the members' birthdays together. Everyone enjoyed the celebration and were excited to receive their gifts



We celebrated Janmashtami at Asha Niketan on 26th August. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and devotion as everyone embraced the spirit of the occasion. The celebration brought smiles, unity, and a sense of belonging, reflecting the inclusive and joyful nature of our community.

Our new outreach program engages nine individuals with intellectual disabilities, promoting social interaction, skill development, and a sense of community. By fostering friendships and celebrating each person's unique gifts, we are building an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported.



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This month, Asha Niketan celebrated Independence Day with Chairperson, Mrs. Felcy, Mr. Eldred, GC members, core members, and staff, highlighted by flag hoisting and personal reflections on freedom.

The Rotary Club's visit, with sweets and performances, added joy to the day. We also remember Mr. Gokul Raj, a valued Craft team member for 15 years, who passed away on December 27, 2023. His parents visited the community, sponsoring a meal and finding comfort among core members.

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Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE

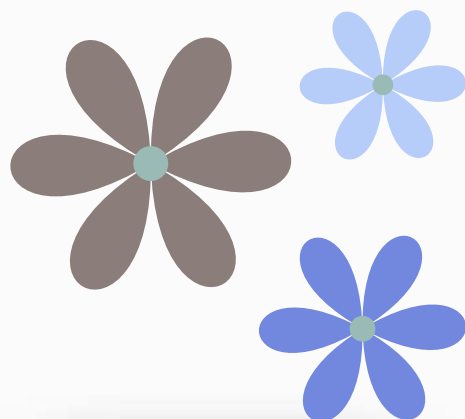
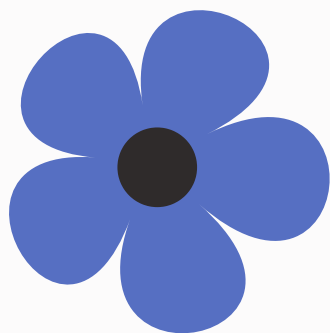




On Independence Day, Chairperson, Mrs. Felcy, Mr. Eldred, GC members, core members, and staff gathered to hoist the flag. Our core members shared their experiences of freedom, and we celebrated the occasion with the distribution of sweets.

A heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Club members who visited us on Independence Day with sweets, decorations, and vibrant performances. Their dances and quality time with our core members made the celebration even more special!

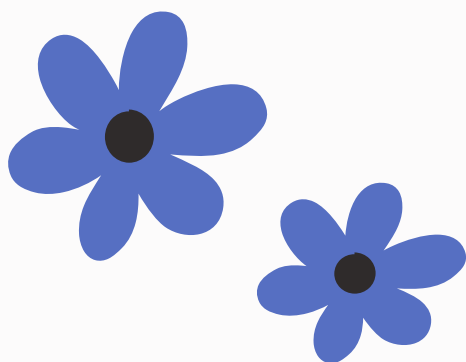




Mr. Gokul Raj passed away on December 27, 2023. He had been with us for about 15 years and was a valued member of the Craft team. His grieving parents visited us, spending an entire day with our core members sponsoring a meal. This visit served as a time of healing for them.



Gokul Raj
12.08.84 to 27.12.23
Asha Niketan Bangalore



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This month, we celebrated Independence Day with joy, unity, and gratitude, thanks to the Lions Club and Chief Guest Mr. C. Thygarajan for hoisting the flag. The festivities included games, dance, and a drawing competition. We warmly welcomed Mr. Vijay Kumar as our new driver and Mr. Khanring Makan from Manipur as our new assistant. We were also honored by the visit of our National Leader and grateful for the eye care camp from the Centre for Vision and Eye Surgery. The community mourns the loss of beloved core member Bala, whose presence is deeply missed.

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Lozilo Kikon

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI





We celebrated Independence Day with joy and unity! A special thanks to the Lions Club for joining us and to our esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. C. Thygarajan, for hoisting the flag. The day was filled with games, dance, and a drawing competition, making it a truly memorable celebration!

We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Vijay Kumar, our new driver at Asha Niketan Home. We have been eagerly awaiting a new driver, and we are so happy to have him with us.



We welcome and are thankful for the volunteers from Loyola College, Social work dept, who started their journey with Asha Niketan. We wish them a rich and fruitful experience.



We had the honor of welcoming our National Leader to the community. Her visit was a great source of guidance and support for us all.

We are thankful to Father Anthony for inviting us to the special occasion at Satya Nilayam, celebrating the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the final vows of Fr. Valerjan Mandoca, SJ. We feel so blessed.



Centre for vision and eye surgery Sholinganallur conducted camp at the community, offering necessary care to our community members.

The sudden loss of our beloved core member, Bala, came as a shock to the entire community. He was a humble and welcoming soul, and we deeply miss his presence.



On 8th August, we were blessed to welcome a new assistant Mr. Khanring Makan from Manipur into our community. His presence has further extended and enriched our family.

Ms. Anu from the Bangalore community visited us, and we are thankful for her time and participation in our community life.



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This month, we celebrated a vibrant Independence Day in collaboration with Gurudev Sporting Club, embracing the spirit of freedom and community. We extend our gratitude to our generous donors, especially the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan East, for their support in empowering vulnerable communities. Raksha Bandhan with St. Augustine Day School highlighted the importance of unity. We welcomed Ms. Nagarathna Subramanya from the Azim Premji Foundation, alongside our Chairman and Board Member.

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA





This Independence Day was truly special as we joined forces with Gurudev Sporting Club for a vibrant celebration! From raising the flag to singing patriotic songs, the day was filled with smiles, connection, and the spirit of freedom—honoring both independence and the strength of community.



We deeply value the generosity of our donors, whose support empowers vulnerable communities through essential services like education, healthcare, and vocational training. A heartfelt thank you to the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan East for supporting our mission and helping create sustainable change!



We celebrated Raksha Bandhan with St. Augustine Day School, embracing the tradition that strengthens bonds beyond family. By tying Rakhis to friends and neighbors, we highlight the importance of harmony and unity, committing to protect one another and foster a peaceful community.



We were delighted to welcome M/s Nagarathna Subramanya from the Azim Premji Foundation on 22.08.24. A heartfelt thanks to FMR fundraiser Mr. Shakeeb for his initiatives. Our esteemed Chairman and Board Member were also present, making it a blessed opportunity. We look forward to a positive outcome from this meaningful engagement.

Members of FMR India participated in the G.B. & AGM Meeting in Bangalore on 10th & 11th August 2024, proudly representing our Kolkata community.



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This month at Asha Niketan, we celebrated our 48th Annual Day with a heartfelt tribute to the people of Wayanad and marked the 78th Independence Day with flag hoisting and participation from Salafi Institute students. We honored our cherished day worker, Salahudheen, with a heartfelt sendoff to Saudi Arabia and observed Orphan and Poor Day in collaboration with the Social Justice Department. Additionally, we welcomed architects from Tony Joseph's firm to discuss infrastructure development and launched ginger cultivation led by Mrs. Sindhu Devi, while completing a highly anticipated product made from banana plant fiber.

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Jyothy Susan Joseph

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR





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Celebrating Asha Niketan's 48th Annual Day with a Minimalistic Tribute to the People of Wayanad



Marking the 78th Independence Day: Flag Hoisting and Celebrations at Asha Niketan, Led by Chairman Mr. O.K. Premanandan



Independence Day Celebration at Asha Niketan: Joined by Students from Salafi Institute of Teachers Education



A Cherished Day Worker Embarks on a New Journey to Saudi Arabia, Honored with a Heartfelt Sendoff from the Asha Niketan Community



Asha Niketan Observes Orphan and Poor Day on Mother Theresa's Birthday, in Collaboration with the Social Justice Department

Renowned Architects from Tony Joseph's Firm Visit Asha Niketan to Kickstart Infrastructure Development



Asha Niketan Begins Ginger Cultivation on New Property, Led by Mrs. Sindhu Devi and the Garden Team



Highly Anticipated Product Made from Banana Plant Fiber Completed.



From Intern to Family: Lessons Learned at Asha Niketan

Ms. Thabithal
MSW
Loyola College

My journey with Asha Niketan Chennai began as a social work intern, focused on learning and contributing. Over time, it transformed into a deeply personal experience as I became part of a family alongside the core members. Asha Niketan taught me the true meaning of compassion, acceptance, and the power of community, shaping my outlook on life and work. The relationships I built here are beyond professional, deeply enriching my life. This experience has strengthened my commitment to social work and highlighted the transformative impact of human connections, making Asha Niketan a place I proudly call home.

“Over time, it transformed into a deeply personal experience as I became part of a family alongside the core members.”



A Lesson in True Human Relationships

Vinutha and
Priyanka



FMR India Asha Niketan, located in Koramangala, is a community with a profound mission: "Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships. Foster an environment in the community that responds to the changing needs of the members whilst being faithful to the core values of the founding story. Engage in diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society." Our time spent there has been nothing short of eye-opening, teaching us what it truly means to connect with people, especially those who are differently abled. From the moment we stepped inside the space, we were enveloped by an atmosphere unlike any other—cosy, welcoming, and incredibly comfortable. It was an experience none of us had encountered before. The core members of the community—the very heart and soul of Asha Niketan—greeted us with warmth and openness, making us feel as though we had known them for years. Their friendliness and genuine nature made the initial few days of adjustment easier, though understanding each member fully was a bit challenging at first. However, as time went on, we bonded so deeply that today, it feels like we are all part of a larger, close-knit family. Each individual in the Asha Niketan community is not only friendly but also looks forward to our visits. Knowing that we would arrive after their lunch hour, they eagerly await our presence. The excitement and joy on their faces when we arrive is contagious, making the environment feel even more homelike. One of the most remarkable aspects of our time at Asha Niketan has been witnessing the intelligence and skills of each community member. Every person brings unique talents to the table, and they take pride in their work without hesitation or complaint. Despite any personal challenges they may be facing, they always wear a smile—an attitude that has deeply inspired us. We have learned so much from them, especially how to approach life with positivity and perseverance.

Asha Niketan, true to its mission, focuses not on the limitations of its members but on their abilities. The community has recognized and nurtured their talents, allowing them to grow and express themselves freely. The empowerment they experience is visible as they thrive and work towards reaching their full potential, regardless of their disabilities. As students, our time at Asha Niketan has been transformative. We have come to understand the value of human relationships in a way we never had before. The warmth, inclusiveness, and strength we've witnessed have made us feel truly at home. The bonds we've formed here are special, and the lessons we've learned about life, acceptance, and understanding will stay with us forever.

In the end, our experience at FMR India Asha Niketan has been much more than just a visit—it has been a journey of mutual growth, learning, and friendship. It is a place where everyone, regardless of their abilities, is empowered to be their best selves, and for that, we are incredibly grateful to have been a part of this extraordinary community.



*stay
tuned*



L'ARCHE LIGHT FESTIVAL

Save
the
date

04.10.2024 @

7.30 pm



Zoom Link

Thank you!



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